UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
Plaintiff,))
v.) No.
THREE THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED AND SIX DOLLARS IN U.S. CURRENCY (\$3,406.00),)))
and)
TWENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO DOLLARS IN U.S. CURRENCY (\$28,732.00),))))
Defendants.))

VERIFIED COMPLAINT OF FORFEITURE

COMES NOW, Plaintiff the United States of America, by and through its attorneys, Jeffrey B. Jensen, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri, and Kyle T. Bateman, Assistant United States Attorney, for said district, and for its Verified Complaint for Forfeiture states as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is a civil action *in rem* brought by the United States seeking forfeiture of all right, title, and interest in the above-captioned defendant property pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 881(a)(6) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(A).

2. The defendant property was seized by law enforcement on or about February 7, 2018, and is described more fully as \$3,406.00 in United States currency; and \$28,732.00 in United States currency.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3. The Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Sections 1345, 1355, and 1395.
- 4. Venue is proper pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 1355(b)(1)(A) because the acts and omissions giving rise to forfeiture took place in the Eastern District of Missouri. Venue is also proper pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 1395(b) because the defendant currency was seized in the Eastern District of Missouri.

STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

- 5. Title 21, United States Code, Section 881(a)(6) authorizes the civil forfeiture of "all moneys, negotiable instruments, securities, or other things of value furnished or intended to be furnished by any person in exchange for a controlled substance or listed chemical in violation of this subchapter, all proceeds traceable to such an exchange, and all moneys, negotiable instruments, and securities used or intended to be used to facilitate any violation of this subchapter."
- 6. Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(A)(i) criminalizes conducting a transaction, including transferring, delivering, or other disposition, knowing that such transaction represents the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity and that in fact involves the proceeds of a specific unlawful activity, including violations of the Controlled Substances Act, with the intent to promote the carrying on of the specified unlawful activity.

- 7. Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(B) criminalizes conducting a transaction, including transfer, delivery, or other disposition, knowing that such transaction represents the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity and that in fact involves the proceeds of a specific unlawful activity, including violations of the Controlled Substances Act, knowing that the transaction is designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, or control of the proceeds of specified unlawful activity.
- 8. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(A), any property, real or personal, involved in a transaction or attempted transaction in violation of section 1956 of Title 18, or any property traceable to such property, is subject to civil forfeiture.

FACTS GIVING RISE TO FORFEITURE

- 9. On or about February 8, 2018, Garland Greer ("Greer") attempted to enter the casino gaming floor at the Hollywood Casino, located at 777 Casino Center, Maryland Heights, Missouri, 63043, within the Eastern District of Missouri, while carrying a backpack that contained marijuana, a metal grinder, \$3,406.00 U.S. currency and numerous rubber bands.
- 10. When law enforcement officers arrived at the scene, Greer consented to a search of his backpack, wherein officers discovered the narcotics, paraphernalia and U.S. currency.
- 11. Greer told officers that he grows and sells marijuana in California and that he was in St. Louis to visit some relatives. Greer also stated that he makes a significant amount of money selling marijuana legally in California but that he makes even more money selling marijuana illegally in states where it is not legal.
- 12. Casino security advised law enforcement officers that Greer had rented a room at the Hollywood Casino hotel for the evening, and requested that Greer be evicted from the hotel.

- 13. Casino security and law enforcement officers escorted Greer to his hotel room to gather his belongings.
- 14. When the group arrived at the hotel room, Hamed Haghighi ("Haghighi") was exiting the room.
- 15. Officers detected a strong odor of burning marijuana emanating from Haghighi and from inside the hotel room.
- 16. Inside the hotel room, officers observed in plain view marijuana on a table near the television.
- 17. Casino security opened the hotel-owned safe that was in the room. Inside the safe was \$28,732.00 U.S. currency and Haghighi's U.S. passport. The currency was banded together with the same type of rubber bands that had previously been discovered in Greer's backpack.
- 18. Haghighi told officers that the currency in the safe belonged to him, but was not able to tell officers the quantity of currency. Later, Haghighi told officers that he believed there was approximately \$8,500 U.S. currency in the safe.
- 19. A trained drug detection canine was utilized to conduct a sniff of both amounts of the United States currency separately. The canine alerted positively to the presence of illegal narcotics on both amounts of the U.S. currency.
 - 20. Greer and Haghighi were both transported to the Maryland Heights Police Station.
- 21. During questioning, Haghighi stated that he then believed there was approximately \$21,000 U.S. currency in the safe. Haghighi stated that he brought \$8,500.00 U.S. currency with him to St. Louis. Haghighi stated that he had not won any significant amount of money while in St. Louis or at the casino.

22. During questioning, Greer stated that he works for a marijuana dispensary. Greer stated that he also knows several large marijuana growers. Greer told officers he brought marijuana with him from California. Greer stated that the currency seized from his backpack belonged to him. GREER stated that he brought some of the money from California, but that he had withdrawn \$1,000 while at the Hollywood Casino. Greer said that he and Haghighi arrived in St. Louis separately, however, they met at the Hollywood Casino where Greer paid for the hotel room which they shared.

COUNT ONE - FORFEITURE 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6)

- 23. The United States incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 to 22 above as if fully set forth herein.
- 24. The defendant property was found in close proximity to narcotics and was packaged in a manner consistent with drug trafficking. In addition, the defendant property was found in the possession of individuals who provided inconsistent stories of its source, ownership and intended use. Finally, a trained narcotics canine alerted positively to the presence of a controlled substance on the defendant property.
- 25. The defendant property is subject to forfeiture pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6) as moneys furnished or intended to be furnished in exchange for a controlled substance, or as proceeds traceable to such exchange, and as money used or intended to be used to facilitate any violation of the Controlled Substances Act.

COUNT TWO - FORFEITURE 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A)

26. The United States incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in Paragraphs

1 to 22 above as if fully set forth herein.

27. The defendant property is proceeds of an unlawful activity involving controlled

substances and was transported through the Eastern District of Missouri by Greer and Haghighi

with the intent to promote the carrying on of, and to conceal or disguise the nature, location, source,

ownership or control of, a specified unlawful activity.

28. Based on the foregoing, the defendant currency is subject to forfeiture, pursuant to

Title 18, United Stated Code, Section 981(a)(1)(A) as property involved in a transaction or

attempted transaction in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956, or as property

traceable to such property.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the United States of America prays that a Warrant for Arrest be issued for

the defendant property and the defendant property be condemned and forfeited to the United States

of America, in accordance with the provisions of law; and that the United States of America be

awarded its costs in this action, and have such other relief as provided by law and the nature of the

case may require.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFREY B. JENSEN

United States Attorney

/s/ Kyle T. Bateman

KYLE T. BATEMAN, #996646DC

Assistant United States Attorney

111 South Tenth Street, 20th Floor

St. Louis, Missouri 63102

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VERIFICATION

I, Task Force Officer Brandon T. McKinnon, hereby verify and declare under penalty of

perjury that I am a Task Force Officer with the Drug Enforcement Administration, that I have read

the foregoing Verified Complaint in rem and know the contents thereof, and that the matters

contained in the Verified Complaint are true to my own knowledge, except that those matters

herein stated to be alleged on information and belief and as to those matters I believe them to be

true.

The sources of my knowledge and information and the grounds of my belief are the official

files and records of the United States, information supplied to me by other law enforcement.

officers, as well as my investigation of this case, together with others, as a Task Force Officer of

the Drug Enforcement Administration.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on:

7-11-2018

(date)

Brandon T. McKinnon

Task Force Officer

Drug Enforcement Administration

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

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110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury CIVIL RIGHTS 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 444 Welfare	PERSONAL INJUR 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPER 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 700 There Personal Property Damage 10 510 Motions to Vacat Sentence Habeas Corpus: 530 General 535 Death Penalty 540 Mandamus & Otl 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition	AY 610 Agriculture 620 Other Food & Dr. 625 Drug Related Seiz 625 Drug Related Seiz 626 Drug Related Seiz 626 Drug Related Seiz 630 Liquor Laws 640 R.R. & Truck 650 Airline Regs. 660 Occupational Safety/Health 690 Other LABOR 710 Fair Labor/Mgmt. Related 720 Labor/Mgmt. Related 730 Labor/Mgmt. Related 730 Labor/Mgmt. Related 740 Railway Labor Act 790 Other Labor Litig 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act 620 Other 620 Other 630 Other 63	422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 424 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 424 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 425 Withdrawal 28 USC 158 425 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 425	□ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and □ Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 810 Selective Service □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ □ Exchange □ 875 Customer Challenge □ 12 USC 3410 □ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 892 Economic Stabilization Act □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 894 Energy Allocation Act □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 900Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I. (a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- **II. Jurisdiction**. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.C.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.

United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.

Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity**. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553
 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

Demand. In this space enter the dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) being demanded or indicate other demand such as a preliminary injunction.

Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.

VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

,) plaintiff,) v.) Case No.) defendant.)	
ORIGINAL FILING FORM	
THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND VERIFIED BY THE FILING PARTY WHI INITIATING A NEW CASE.	EN
THIS CAUSE, OR A SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT COMPLAINT, WAS	
PREVIOUSLY FILED IN THIS COURT AS CASE NUMBER	
AND ASSIGNED TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE	
NEITHER THIS CAUSE, NOR A SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT COMPLAINT,	
PREVIOUSLY HAS BEEN FILED IN THIS COURT, AND THEREFORE MAY BE	
OPENED AS AN ORIGINAL PROCEEDING.	
The undersigned affirms that the information provided above is true and correct.	
Date: Signature of Filing Party	

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	No.
THREE THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED AND)	
SIX DOLLARS IN U.S. CURRENCY (\$3,406.00)	,)	
Defendant)	

WARRANT FOR ARREST OF PROPERTY

TO: THE UNITED STATES MARSHAL AND/OR ANY OTHER DULY AUTHORIZED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

Whereas, on July 12, 2018, the United States of America filed a Verified Complaint for Civil Forfeiture in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, against the above-named defendant property, alleging that said property is subject to seizure and civil forfeiture to the United States for the reasons mentioned in the complaint; and

WHEREAS, the defendant property is currently in the possession, custody, or control of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in these circumstances, Supplemental Rule G(3)(b)(i) directs the Clerk of the Court to issue an arrest warrant in rem for the arrest of the defendant property; and

WHEREAS, Supplemental Rule G(3)(c) provides that the warrant of arrest in rem must be delivered to a person or organization authorized to execute it;

NOW THEREFORE, you are hereby commanded to arrest the above-named defendant property by serving a copy of this warrant on the custodian in whose possession, custody, or

control the property is presently found, and to use whatever means may be appropriate to protect and maintain it in your custody until further order of this Court,

YOU ARE FURTHER COMMANDED, promptly after execution of this process, to file the same in this Court with your return thereon, identifying the individuals upon whom copies were served and the manner employed.

GREGORY J. LINHARES, CLERK United States District Court

By:			
·	Deputy Clerk		
Date	:		

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
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v.)) N	lo.
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GREGORY J. LINHARES, CLERK United States District Court

By:			
Ū	Deputy Clerk		
Date	:		